

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) A method for decreasing or preventing non-pulmonary inflammation in a mammal, comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying a mammal which has existing inflammation or is at risk for developing inflammation in a non-pulmonary tissue;
- (b) causing the mammal to inhale a therapeutically effective amount of gaseous nitric oxide sufficient to diminish the ability of the mammal's leukocytes or platelets to become activated in a manner that contributes to an inflammation process in the non-pulmonary tissue, thereby decreasing or preventing non-pulmonary inflammation in the mammal; and
- (c) immediately before, during, or after the inhalation of nitric oxide by the mammal, administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a second compound that potentiates the therapeutic effect of gaseous nitric oxide.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the non-pulmonary inflammation is arthritis, myocarditis, encephalitis, transplant rejection, systemic lupus erythematosus, gout, dermatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, hepatitis, or thyroiditis.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the second compound is selected from the group consisting of a phosphodiesterase inhibitor and superoxide dismutase.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 2-o-propoxyphenyl-8-azapurin-6-one, dipyridamole, theophylline and 1,3-dimethyl-6-(2-propoxy-5-methanesulphonylamidophenyl)-pyrazolo[3,4-D]pyrimidin-4-(5H)-one.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the second compound is selected from the group consisting of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, a glucocorticoid, and a cytotoxic agent.

32. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the nitric oxide is inhaled in a predetermined concentration range.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the concentration range is 0.1 ppm to 300 ppm.

34. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the nitric oxide is inhaled continuously for an extended period.

35. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the nitric oxide is inhaled intermittently for an extended period.

36. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the mammal is a human.

37. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the amount of gaseous nitric oxide is sufficient to diminish the ability of platelets to become activated in a manner that contributes to the inflammation process.

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38-39. (Canceled)